My Experience on Second Language

: the Holy Grail or the external riddle

2013.6.15

TESOL W/K 89th

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Yeah, I mean that’s the holy grail of language, how difficult the journey is or the external riddles of life, whether my dreams come true or not . Every these things are the way my experience goes.

Conquering the seond language is impossible to non-native person, which has been an unavoidable hypothesis to be solved imminiently to me for a long time. Not yet did I discover an appropriate solution to explain clearly. So I have spent a lot of time and energy as well as money on English to find out it in the sacrifices of opportunity cost derived from those things nevertheless would have been gotten. But even if the outcomes will prove unfavorable, I have to keep on going to journey for the Quest to English during the rest of my life.

I would like to describe my second language experience into three categories : one intrinsic motivator and two extrinsic environments. First of all, come to think of my purpose of studying English, there have been various reasons from getting a better job to catching up with current news. Too many reasons have lead to overloaded motivations which can also distract the learner’s mind only to be positioned at best mediocre without my forte in reality. For instance, When buying your favorite jam in the store that too many jams are on display, you are reluctant to decide which one to buy in comparison to minimizing the number of options. You have to choose a few of items and concentrate on them as soon as possible. Likewise, in case of English language, they would be an obstacle when the ability of using English is only confined as an experienced person as interpreters or travelling guiders including after-school English conversation instructor. Too many targets can rather give you the slightest possibility of attaining even the one of your goals, remaining the significance of priorities the same despite all your efforts to achieve it.

What about the second language environment that I have experienced : teachers I have been taught and my time duration of studing English? I have learned through TESOL course that there are three types of teachers – explainer, involver and enabler. They have their own characteristics and merits which help build the learner’s beliefs on second language. But the process by which traditional teaching of explainer has been primarily conducted as the task of passing over grammer’s knowledge to the students by lecture and explanation is an efficient teaching. This has prevented me from developing other skills except reading and writing. Unfortunately, this approach would have turned out as a poisoned chalice had I not improved language skills of speaking and listening. Especially, adult learners prefer to be free direct themselves, allowing them to assume responsibility for presentations and group leaderhip.1)

And as a final category on my experience of English, I heard many times that one of the best way of mastering English is to keep studying persistently, not intermittently. The habit of making this rule is very hard in daily lives so that I always find a good excuse of breaking a promise and procrastinate it for the future. I studied English by fits and starts. Then I was very vexed to find all my efforts were in vain. I have to begin from the bottom again over and over. That is the way what I was, what I am and what I will be on condition that all things being equal. As far as passion is concerned, I am second to none. But Persistency is more important than passion in lerning a second language by judging from other people’s success story.

In conclusion, my experience on learning English left me with a sense of futility. But this is too precious to give up now since English is worth it in many ways. I has kept my focus on the possibility that a fluent English will compensate for my lost opportunity cost in the future, seeking for a ifelong job. I concluded from the characteristics of adult learners that the golden rule of learning a second lnguage is not having many plausible dreams or counting the total time of investment, but making the habit of learning speaking and listening little by little everyday, sticking to one target.

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1. On abstract of Characteristics of Ault Learners by Malcolm Knowles